

MARVEL

4

AARON • TOWE • GURU-eFX

AVENGERS FOREVER



SECRET EMPIRE™

MARVEL

#4



NICK SPENCER, LEINIL FRANCIS YU, ROD REIS, JOSHUA CASSARA

And there came a day, a day unlike any other, when the mightiest Avengers of many Earths found themselves united against a common threat--to fight the foes no single universe could withstand!

AVENGERS FOREVER



GHOST RIDER



WONDER MAN



MOON KNIGHT



FRIGG



ELLISIV



ANT-MAN



DEATHLOK



VISION



INFINITY THING



ATLI

A **Deathlok** dispatched by the mysterious **Avenger Prime** and **Robbie Reyes**, the **Ghost Rider** of Earth-616, were teleported to the dystopian Earth-818 ruled by the **Black Skull**. The Black Skull soon imprisoned and tortured Deathlok and Robbie.

The heroes were freed by **Tony Stark**, the **Ant-Man** of Earth-818, and his ragtag band of Avengers. But before they defeated the Black Skull, he activated a group of portals to other realities and a horde of Black Skull variants flooded in to take his place!

THE GODDESSES OF THUNDER IN "THE FOREVER STORM"

BY **JASON AARON**, **JIM TOWE** & **GURU-EFH**

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WE WERE
BESET
BY EVIL.

SNAP!

DANGERS
LURKED AROUND
EVERY CORNER.



WE WERE
OUTNUMBERED...



ATTACKED...



OVERCOME.



WE
REALIZED,
IF WE
WERE TO
SURVIVE
THIS--

HEY THERE,
FRIEND...

SOMEWHERE AT THE END OF TIME.

MANY YEARS HAVE PASSED
SINCE THE UNIVERSE WAS SAVED
FROM **GORR THE GOD BUTCHER**
AND HIS NECROSWORD.

YEARS SINCE **LOKI** SACRIFICED
HIMSELF TO REIGNITE THE SUN.
THE LAST STAR IN A COSMOS
OF CRUMBLING RUIN.

YEARS SINCE **KING THOR**
SAILED ALONE INTO THE
DARKNESS, NEVER TO RETURN.*

*IN KING
THOR #1-4
--TOM.

YOU CAN STILL HEAR THE
THUNDER FROM TIME TO TIME.

THAT'S HOW THE PEOPLE
OF **MIDGARD** KNOW
THEIR GOD IS STILL UP
THERE, HOLDING BACK THE
COLLAPSE OF ALL THAT IS.

PROTECTING THE LIFE
HE CREATED. GIVING
HUMAN EXISTENCE
ONE LAST CHANCE.

IN THIS REALITY, THUNDER
IS THE SOUND OF **HOPE**.
AT LEAST MOST DAYS.

BUT NOT
THIS ONE.





THOR'S GRANDDAUGHTERS HEAR RIGHT AWAY THAT SOMETHING IS DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS STORM. SOMETHING IS **WRONG**.

ATLI HURRIEDLY FINISHES HER MEAD, AND EVERYONE ELSE'S.



ELLISIV LINGERS FOR A MOMENT IN THE GARDENS.

BEFORE SUMMONING HER WAR GOAT.



THE GREAT CHIEFS OF THE WORLD ENTREAT **FRIGG**, "HOW HAVE WE ANGERED OUR MAKER? SHOULD WE FLOCK TO THE TEMPLES AND PRAY?"

"YOU SHOULD GO **HOME**," THE SKY GODDESS TELLS THEM.

"GO BE WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE."



"GO BE WITH
YOUR FAMILY."

ALL THREE KNOW RIGHT
WHERE TO GO. TO THE LAST
PLACE THEY'D EVER SEEN
THEIR MIGHTY GRANDFATHER.

IT WASN'T
FLOATING LIKE
THAT THE LAST
TIME WE WERE
HERE, WAS
IT?

TO WHERE HE LEFT
THEM HIS FINAL GIFT.

no.
it most
certainly
was not.

SECRET EMPIRE

STEVE ROGERS, A.K.A. CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAS CLAIMED THE UNITED STATES FOR HYDRA. THE HANDFUL OF HEROES WHO ESCAPED HIS INITIAL ATTACK DISCOVERED THAT A COSMIC CUBE WAS BEHIND STEVE ROGERS' SINISTER CHANGE OF HEART, AND MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE HIM BACK--IF THE SCATTERED PIECES COULD BE REUNITED.

TONY STARK AND HIS TEAM CONVINCED SAM WILSON TO SMUGGLE THEM OUT OF THE COUNTRY, BUT THEIR DESTINATION WAS MORE DANGEROUS THAN HE LET ON. CAPTAIN AMERICA IS AFTER THE CUBE AS WELL, AND TO GET THE FIRST SHARD, BOTH FACTIONS WILL HAVE TO TANGLE WITH ULTRON HIMSELF.

MEANWHILE, BLACK WIDOW AND HER GROUP OF YOUNGER HEROES ARE CLOSING IN ON A LESS MERCIFUL WAY TO DEAL WITH CAPTAIN AMERICA.

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HYDRA

HYDRA COMMAND



CAPTAIN AMERICA



KRAKEN



BARON ZEMO



THE PUNISHER

AVENGERS



SCARLET WITCH



ODINSON



SUPERIOR OCTOPUS



BLACK ANT



TASKMASTER

THE UNDERGROUND



TONY STARK (A.I.)



ANT-MAN



HERCULES



QUICKSILVER



MOCKINGBIRD



SAM WILSON

THE RED ROOM



BLACK WIDOW



WASP



SPIDER-MAN



VIV VISION



IRONHEART



FALCON

ATLANTIS



NAMOR



MAYBE FARFAR'S **ANGRY** THAT NONE OF US HAVE TRIED TO PICK IT UP.

WE ALL AGREED THAT WE WOULD KNOW WHEN THAT TIME HAD COME. PERHAPS NOW IT HAS.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT ONE OF US CLAIMING THE HAMMER.

LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF THE STORM, SISTERS. THE LANGUAGE ONLY THUNDERERS CAN HEAR.

THEY SPEAK OF FEAR.



ALL I HEAR ARE CRIES OF PAIN.

AND I HEAR THE CALL TO WAR.

WE'RE COMING, FARFAR! THE GODDESSES OF THUNDER HAVE HEARD YOUR CALL!



KING THOR KNEW WHEN HE LEFT THAT HE'D BE HOLDING UP THE PILLARS OF CREATION FOR ALL ETERNITY.

I DON'T THINK HE'S AFRAID FOR HIMSELF.

BALTIMORE.

THERE
HE IS, AT
LAST--

--THE ELUSIVE
PUNISHER.

WE'VE
BEEN LOOKING
EVERYWHERE
FOR YOU, CASTLE.
THIS IS THE SIXTH
SAFEHOUSE
WE TRIED.

NEED I
REMINDE YOU
YOU'RE ON A VITAL
MISSION, AND
WHEN YOU DON'T
REPORT IN--



I DON'T
ANSWER
TO YOU,
KRAKEN.

WHAT
ABOUT ME,
THEN?

CAP...

HELLO,
FRANK.

AT EASE,
SOLDIER. I'M
SORRY TO INTRUDE
LIKE THIS--PLEASE
KNOW IT'S ONLY
BECAUSE WE'RE
RUNNING OUT OF
TIME. DO YOU
HAVE ANY
LEADS?

YES SIR,
A FEW--I CAME
CLOSE IN NEWARK,
BROUGHT HOME
SOLID INTEL.
WE'LL HAVE HER
IN OUR SIGHTS
SOON.

THAT'S A RELIEF
TO HEAR--RIGHT NOW
THINGS ARE...**CHALLENGING**,
TO PUT IT MILDLY. WE'RE
UNDER ATTACK. LOT OF FOLKS
OUT THERE ARE TRYING TO
UNDO EVERYTHING WE'VE
ACCOMPLISHED.



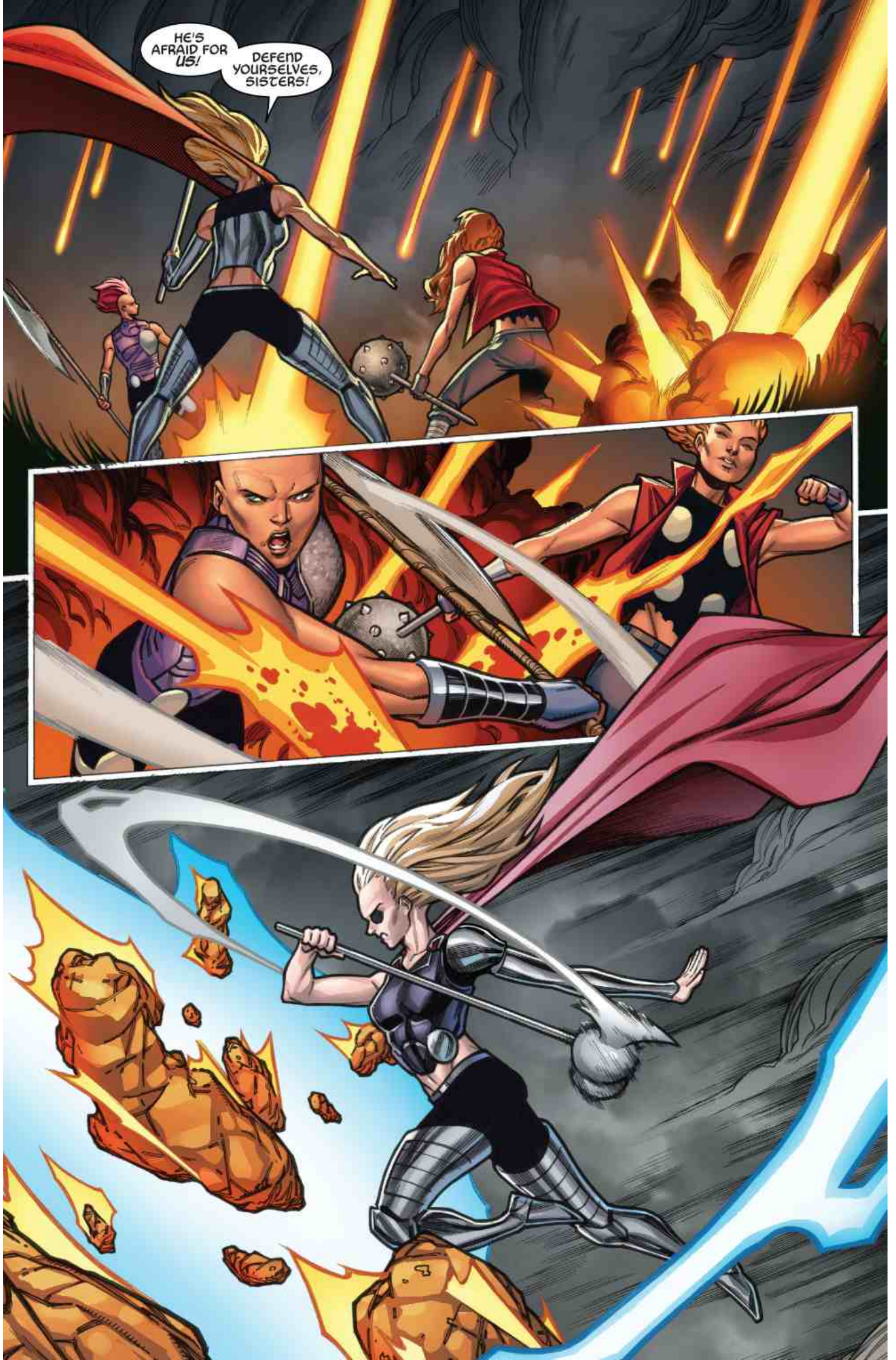
YOU'VE
BEEN MY
TRUSTED
LIEUTENANT
THROUGH ALL
THIS, FRANK--
BUT I NEED
YOU NOW MORE
THAN EVER, YOU
UNDERSTAND?

WE MAY BE
BESET BY THREATS
ON ALL SIDES, BUT
BELIEVE ME WHEN I
TELL YOU--



HE'S
AFRAID FOR
US!

DEFEND
YOURSELVES,
SISTERS!







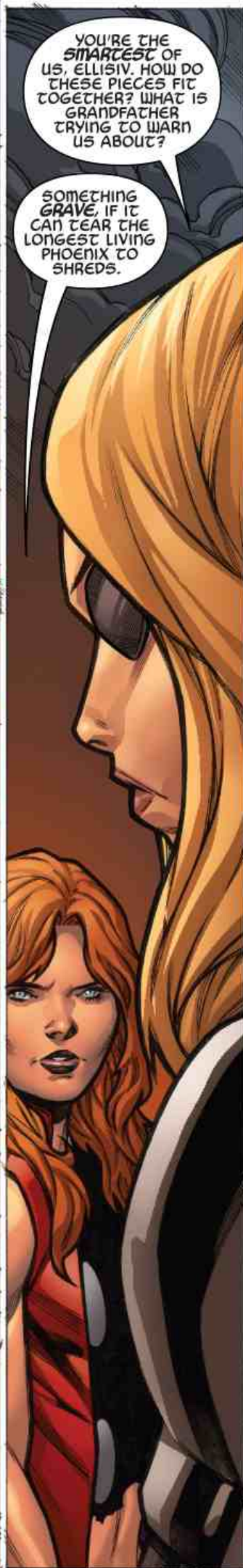




LOGAN.
THAT'S WHAT
GRANDFATHER THOR
CALLED HIM. HE
SAID HE WAS AN
ALLY OF OLD.

I
THOUGHT
HE WAS
DEAD.

WELL,
HIS **HAND**
IS STILL
MOVING, SO
MAYBE
NOT.



YOU'RE THE
SMARTEST OF
US, ELLISIV. HOW DO
THESE PIECES FIT
TOGETHER? WHAT IS
GRANDFATHER
TRYING TO WARN
US ABOUT?

SOMETHING
GRAVE, IF IT
CAN TEAR THE
LONGEST LIVING
PHOENIX TO
SHREDS.



I DON'T
KNOW ABOUT YOU,
SISTERS, BUT
SOMETIMES, AT
NIGHT...I DREAM
OF **HAMMERS**.

VERY
MANY OF
THEM.

AND
THEY'RE ALWAYS
WAILING.

THIS IS
SOMETHING FROM
BEYOND EVEN OUR
UNIVERSE. SOMETHING
GIVING BIRTH TO
STORMS OF A SORT
WE'VE NEVER
SEEN.

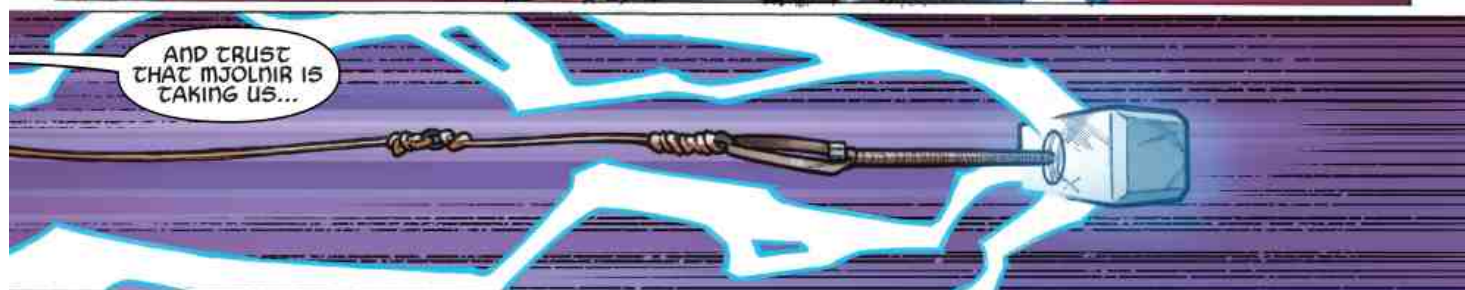
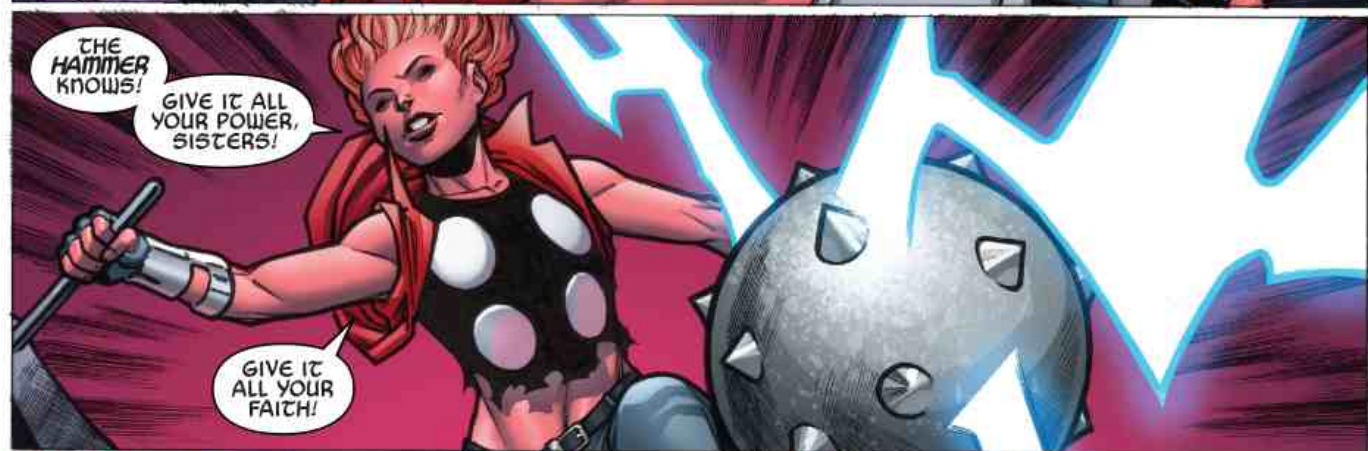


A STORM
THE SIZE OF
FOREVER.

I THINK ALL
WE CAN DO IS
TRUST IN OUR
GRANDFATHER.

AND LET
KING THOR
LEAD THE
WAY.





ALASKA.

"THEY'RE CALLING THEM THE **ULTRONIC TERRITORIES**--
WELL, THE PEOPLE WHO KNOW THEY EVEN **EXIST**, THAT IS.

"BASICALLY, NOT LONG
BEFORE THE PLANETARY
DEFENSE SHIELD WENT
UP, ULTRON RETURNED
FROM THE STARS.

"BUT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO DESTROY
THE WORLD OR ATTACK THE AVENGERS
OR WHATEVER, AS USUAL, HE SET UP
SHOP IN A REMOTE BIT OF ALASKA
AND STARTED BUILDING CITIES--

"--CITIES FULL OF
MORE ULTRONS.

"HYDRA DENIES ANY OF IT EVEN **EXISTS**, BUT THERE ARE RUMORS OF SOME
KIND OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, WHICH MAKES SENSE--

"--SEEING AS ULTRON HAS THE
THING STEVE AND HIS CRONIES
WANT MORE THAN ANYTHING--

"--A COSMIC CUBE
FRAGMENT."

BUT
WE'RE
GOING TO
GET IT
FIRST.

THIS
IS OUR
MISSION,
PEOPLE--A
STEALTH
MISSION.

GET IN,
GET THE CUBE
FRAGMENT,
GET OUT--

"...TO A WORLD
IN NEED."

EARTH-818.

NO.
THIS ISN'T
FAIR.

WE BEAT
THE BLACK SKULL.
WE SAVED THE
WORLD.

SINCE WHEN
IS THERE MORE
THAN *ONE* OF
HIM?

THE
WASTELORD
OF THIS
EARTH...HAS
FALLEN.

BUT THIS
WORLD WAS RIGHTFULLY
CLAIMED BY THE BLACK
SKULL. AND THAT CLAIM
SHALL BE HONORED.

WHICHEVER
OF US KILLS THE
USURPERS SHALL BE
THE NEW LORD OF
THIS EARTH!

BY
ORDER OF
THE MASTERS
OF EVIL!

WHERE
ARE THESE
GUYS COMING
FROM?

FROM
THE PORTALS!
PORTALS TO OTHER
UNIVERSES!

THEN WE'VE
GOT TO GET THEM
CLOSED! OR WHO
KNOWS WHAT ELSE IS
LIABLE TO COME
THROUGH!





THE HAMMER
LED US RIGHT TO
A BATTLE.

GOOD
HAMMER.

YEAH, BUT
WHICH ONES DO
WE FIGHT?

THOSE SUITS
OF LIVING BLACKNESS.
I'VE READ ABOUT THEM
IN GRANDFATHER'S ANCIENT
TOMES. THEY'RE OF THE
SAME ILK AS GORR'S
NECROSWORD.

THEN I
SUPPOSE THAT
ANSWERS THE
QUESTION. SHALL
WE, SISTERS?



"--AND MORE DANGEROUS."

THEY'VE ARRIVED, SIR.

YES, JARVIS, I'M AWARE. THANK YOU.

I HATE TO SEE THEM LIKE THIS, YOU KNOW.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE A TEAM. A FAMILY. NOW LOOK AT US--DIVIDED, TORN APART.

BUT ALL IS NOT LOST. I CAN FIX THIS--I CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT--

--HANK PYM IS GOING TO SAVE THE AVENGERS!

SETTING HER DOWN JUST OUTSIDE THE PERIMETER...



AND THERE IS
THUNDER.

OF A SORT THAT
HASN'T BEEN HEARD
ON THIS EARTH FOR
MANY YEARS.

FOR A
MILLION
YEARS.

SINCE THE
FALL OF ODIN.

SINCE THE ALL-FATHER
OF ASGARD CALLED
WITH HIS DYING BREATH
TO BE **AVENGED.**

A CALL THAT
IS NOW FINALLY
ANSWERED.

BY GODS
AND MANKIND
TOGETHER.



BOBBI--
ANY ALARM
BELLS?

SO FAR,
ALL CLEAR. BUT
YOU'RE WELCOME
TO COME SEE FOR
YOURSELF,
SAM--

THANKS
BUT NO
THANKS.



I TOLD YOU I
WOULD GET YOU
OUT OF THE COUNTRY.
AND I *DID*. I DIDN'T
SIGN UP FOR ULTRON
FIGHT NUMBER 582.
THAT'S NOT WHAT
I *DO* ANYMORE.

AND IT WOULD'VE
BEEN *NICE* TO GET A
LITTLE MORE HEADS-UP
ON OUR *DESTINATION*,
WHILE WE'RE ON THE
SUBJECT--

YEAH,
THAT'S MY
FAULT. BUT IN
MY DEFENSE--



--YOU NEVER
WOULD'VE
SAID YES.

AND HEY, DON'T
BE SO PESSIMISTIC.
WE DO THIS RIGHT,
ULTRON WILL BE
SNORING AWAY IN
HIS JAMMIES THE
WHOLE TIME WE'RE
HERE.



I SAY *LET*
THE TYRANT SHOW
HIMSELF. *OH*, TO DO
BATTLE, AFTER ALL
THIS HIDING AND
RUNNING--

SPEAK FOR
YOURSELF, HERCULES.
ULTRON SHOWS HIMSELF,
I *WILL* BE RUNNING.
AS I DO.

WELL,
IN A FEW MINUTES
WE SHOULD AT LEAST
BE ABLE TO TELL YOU
WHICH DIRECTION TO
GO, PIETRO.



ASSUMING
ANT-MAN CAN
GET INTO THE
MAINFRAME--

OH YEAH,
BOBBI, DON'T
WORRY--
ALMOST--



--THERE.

AND BY SOMETHING
THAT IS NOT
QUITE EITHER.

GAAGH, WHAT'S
HAPPENING?! I'VE
LOST CONTROL OF
MY SYMBIOTE!

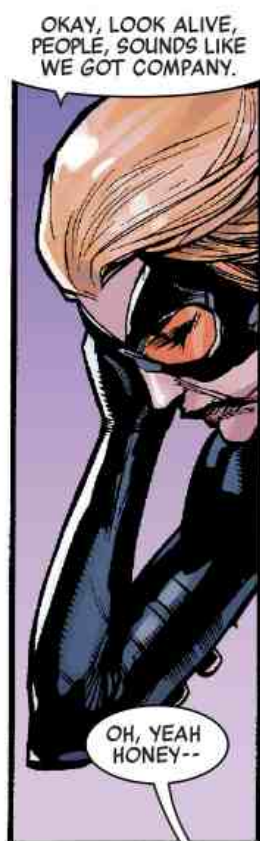
SOMETHING
CALLED THE
ALL-RIDER.

AARRRRGH!!!

GO BACK TO
YOUR WORLDS.
TELL THE REST OF
THE SKULLS. TELL
ALL THE OTHER
MASTERS.

TELL THEM
VENGEANCE IS
COMING.

AND TELL
THEM HOW IT
BURNS.





THE INVADERS ARE
SENT REELING THROUGH
THE SUPERFLOW.

EARTH-818 WILL NEVER
AGAIN KNOW THE RULE
OF A WASTELORD.

BUT THERE ARE STILL BATTLES TO
BE WON IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM.

AND STILL *CASUALTIES*
TO BE COUNTED.

MOONIE?
VIZ?

ANYBODY
SEE MOON
KNIGHT AND
VISION?!

WITH THE POWER VESTED
IN HIM AS THE SPIRIT OF
VENGEANCE, THE GHOST
RIDER PASSES SENTENCE
UPON BOTH THE BLACK
SKULL AND HIS SYMBIOTE.



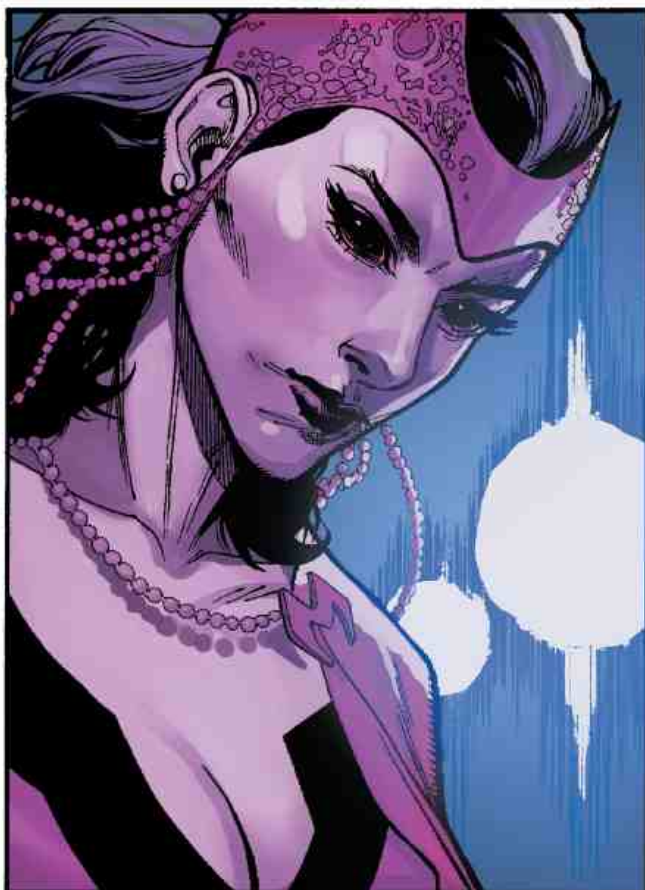
THE SYMBIOTE IS
INCARCERATED WITHIN
THE INFERNAL TRUNK
OF THE HELL CHARGER,
WHILE THE SKULL IS DRIVEN
INTO THE HEART OF THE
WASTELAND HE'D CREATED.

THERE HE IS LEFT, IN A STATE
OF FOREVER PENANCE.

BUT EVEN WITH THE BLACK SKULL
NO MORE, THIS IS STILL AN EARTH
LONG SUBJUGATED BY THE INSTITUTIONS
OF PERSECUTION AND CRUELTY.



BY WAR
MACHINES.



SO WHILE THE GODDESSES OF THUNDER AND THE OTHER HEROES ARE BUSY LIBERATING THE INNOCENT, THE RIDER AND THE **WONDER MAN** SET OUT TO DEAL WITH THE WAR MACHINES.

THAT NIGHT, THERE ARE UNENDING SCREAMS ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

COME THE DAWN, THE EARTH IS TRULY **FREE**.



WHICH ONE OF YOU IS **GOD**?



WE ARE ALL GODDESSES HERE.

THE **DEATHLOK** TELLS ME...THAT IN OTHER REALITIES, LESS MISERABLE THAN THIS ONE...**GOD** ANSWERS PRAYERS. IS THIS TRUE?

WELL... IDEALLY.

FOR SOME GODS, YES, IT IS. YOU MAY SPEAK WHATEVER IS IN YOUR HEART.





I...
DO NOT
KNOW HOW
TO PRAY.

WOULD IT
BE ALL RIGHT
IF I...IF I JUST
TOLD YOU MY
PRAYER?

IT
WOULD BE
OUR HONOR
TO HEAR
IT.



I PRAY
THAT I'LL
NEVER HAVE
TO KILL
ANYONE
AGAIN.



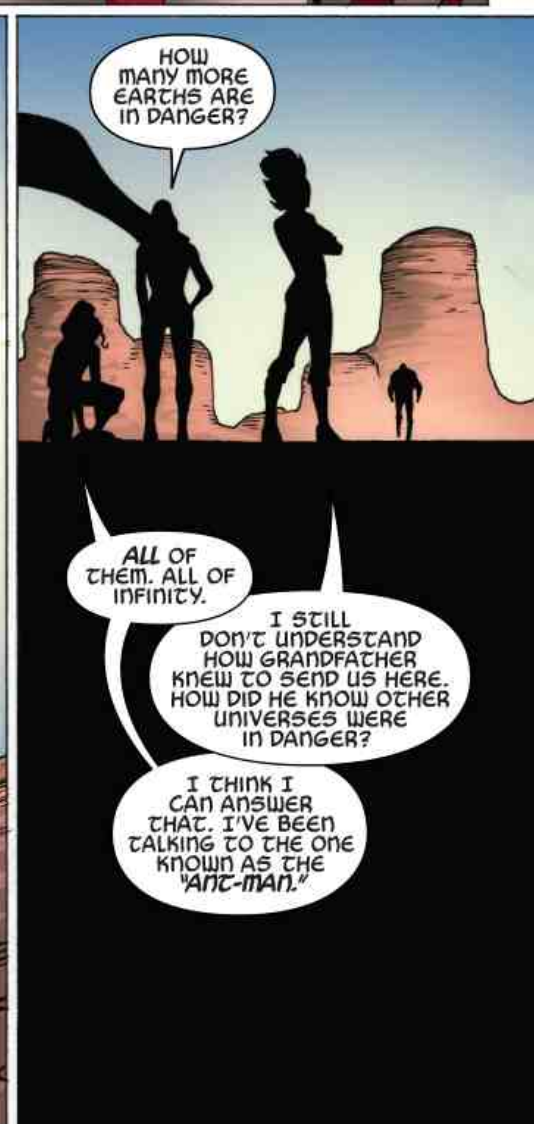
WHAT A
STUPID
PRAY--

YOUR
PRAYER HAS
BEEN HEARD,
SIMON WILLIAMS,
MAN OF
WONDERS.

AS THE
LAST DAUGHTERS
OF ASGARD, WE WILL
DO ALL WITHIN OUR
POWER TO MAKE
IT SO.



ONE WORLD.
FEELS LIKE A
VICTORY. BUT
SHOULD IT?



HOW
MANY MORE
EARTHS ARE
IN DANGER?

ALL OF
THEM. ALL OF
INFINITY.

I STILL
DON'T UNDERSTAND
HOW GRANDFATHER
KNEW TO SEND US HERE.
HOW DID HE KNOW OTHER
UNIVERSES WERE
IN DANGER?

I THINK I
CAN ANSWER
THAT. I'VE BEEN
TALKING TO THE ONE
KNOWN AS THE
"ANT-MAN."





I FOUND IT BURIED DEEP UNDERGROUND. THINK IT DATES FROM ABOUT A MILLION YEARS AGO.



I, UH, I DEFINITELY DIDN'T TRY TO PICK IT UP OR ANYTHING CRAZY LIKE THAT.

SO YOU'RE SAYING THE HAMMERS OF DIFFERENT UNIVERSES... CAN TALK TO EACH OTHER?

SO IT WOULD SEEM. AND UNTIL THIS ONE CALLS FOR ITS NEW WIELDER, WE CAN FIND A USE FOR IT.

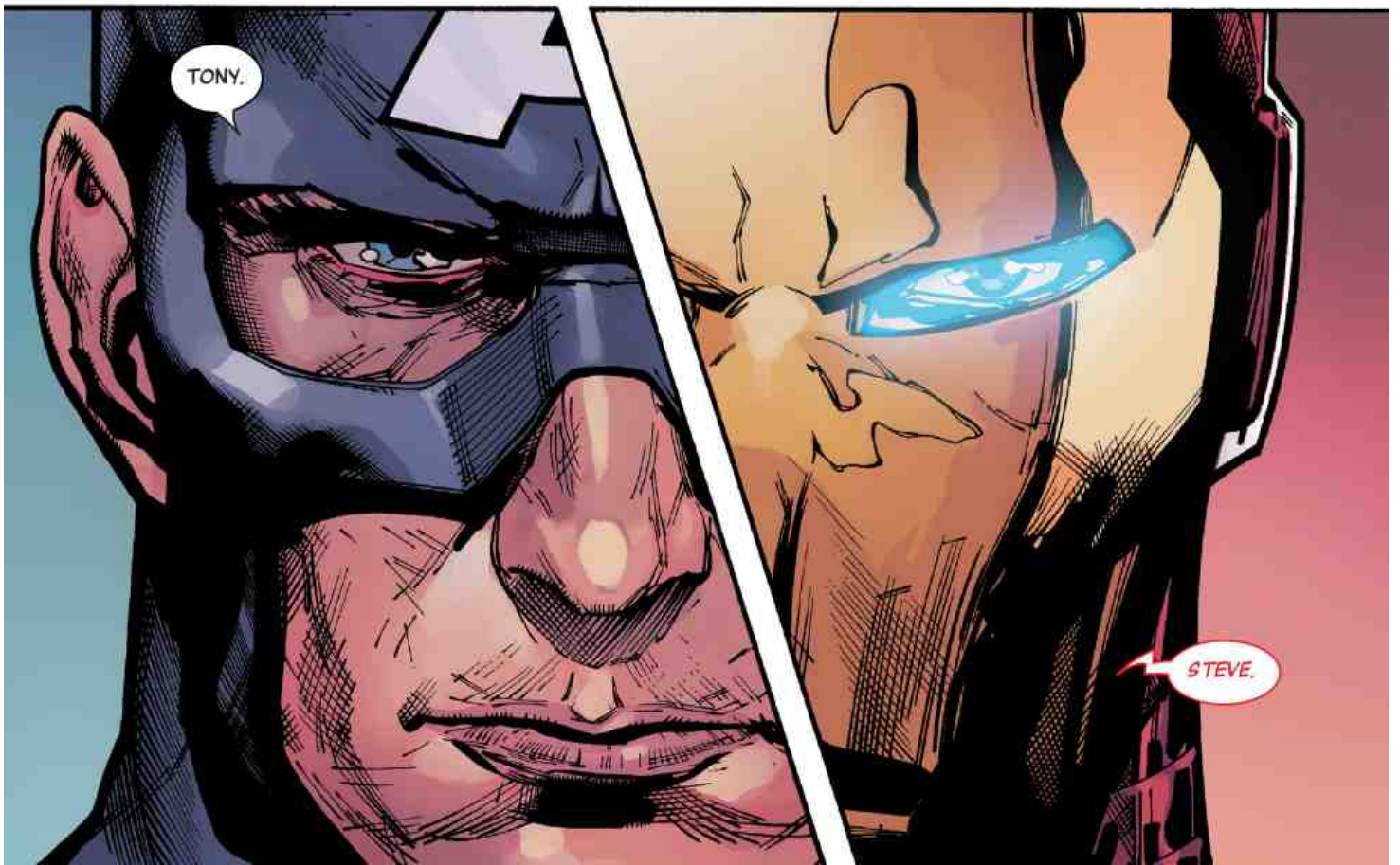


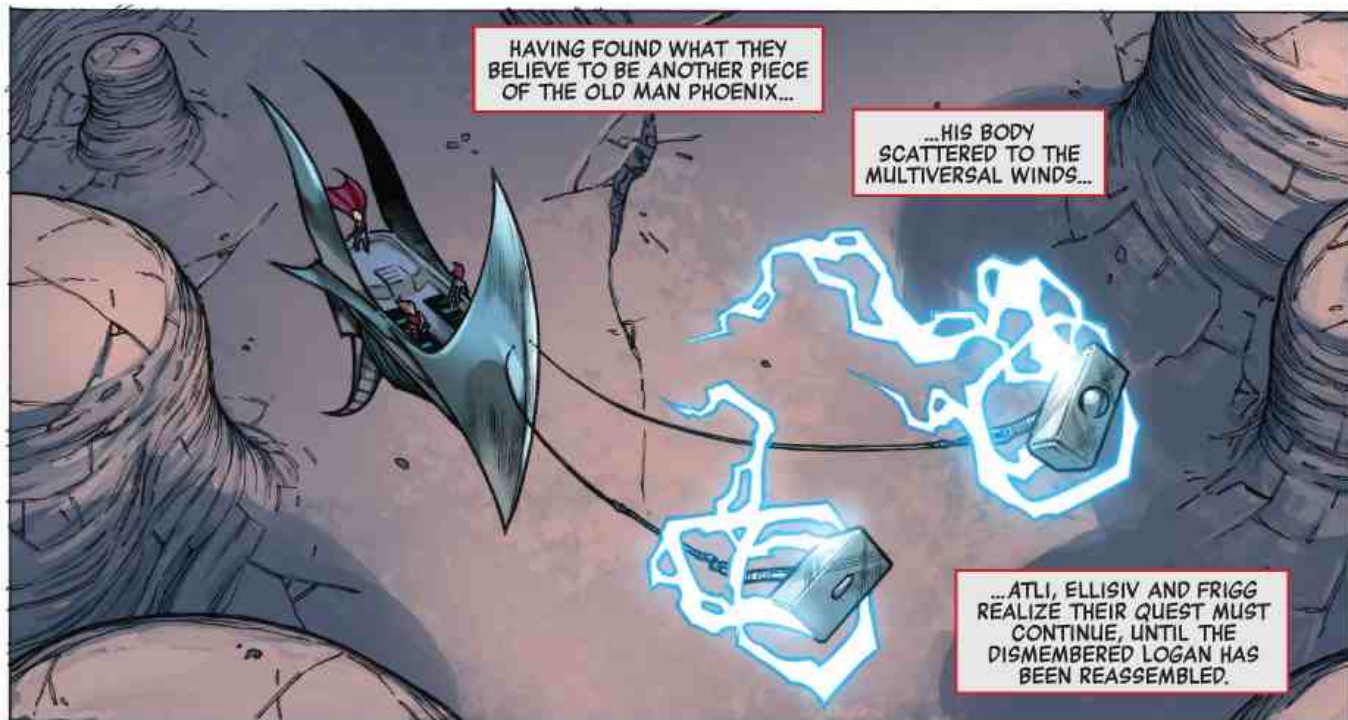
THIS OTHER ARTIFACT, WAS IT FOUND ALONGSIDE THE REST, FROM THE ANCIENT PAST?

NO, THAT ONE WAS MUCH MORE RECENT. FELL TO EARTH JUST A FEW WEEKS AGO AS PART OF A METEOR SHOWER. A COSMIC FIRESTORM.



YOU KNOW, I SWEAR I CAN SEE IT MOVING SOMETIMES.





HAVING FOUND WHAT THEY BELIEVE TO BE ANOTHER PIECE OF THE OLD MAN PHOENIX...

...HIS BODY SCATTERED TO THE MULTIVERSAL WINDS...

...ATLI, ELLISIV AND FRIGG REALIZE THEIR QUEST MUST CONTINUE, UNTIL THE DISMEMBERED LOGAN HAS BEEN REASSEMBLED.

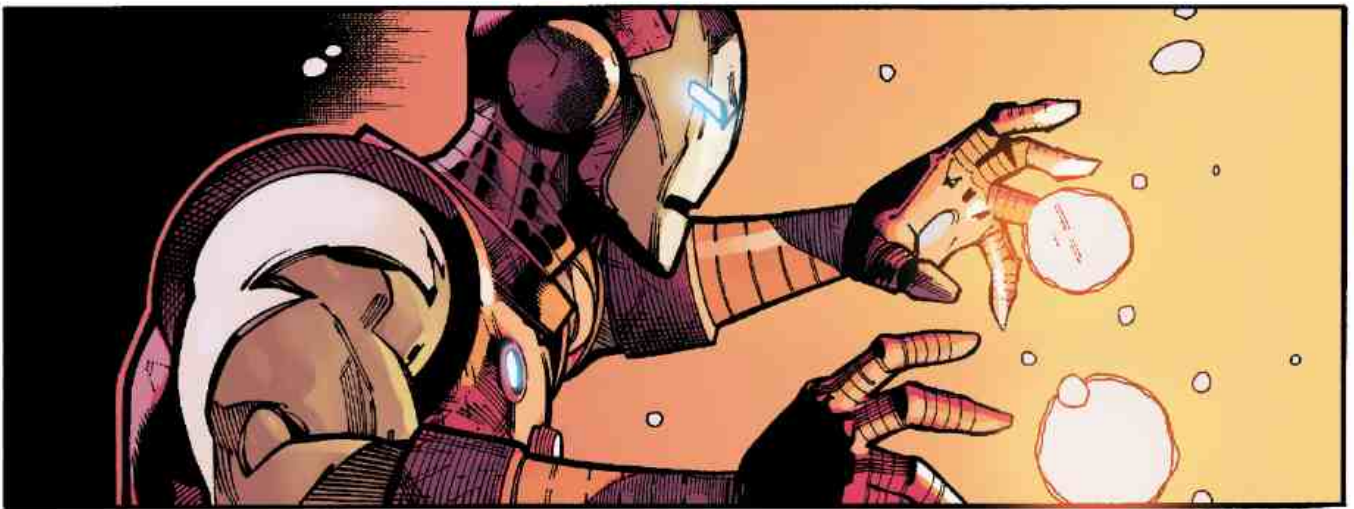


IN RETURN FOR THE ARTIFACTS THEY CLAIM FROM EARTH-818 AND FOR THEIR SHIP BEING REPAIRED BY THE ALL-RIDER...THE GODDESSES OF THUNDER LEAVE BEHIND THE GIFTS OF THE HEAVENS.

RAIN FOR A SCORCHED WORLD. *SEEDS* FROM THE LOST GARDENS OF ASGARD.



HOPE FOR THE WASTELAND.



AND FOR THOSE
WHO SURVIVED IT.

HOPE, AND SOMETHING
EVEN MORE POWERFUL.
A PURPOSE.

HOW MANY
OTHER WORLDS DID
THEY DO THIS TO?
THESE MASTERS
OF EVIL?

IF THEY HAVE THEIR
WAY...EVERY WORLD
THAT EXISTS WILL BE
LIKE THIS ONE.

THAT'S WHY
WE HAVE TO
LEAVE.

YOU MAKE IT
KINDA HARD TO
ENJOY HAVING JUST
SAVED THE PLANET,
YOU KNOW.

MOON KNIGHT
AND VISION. YOU
THINK THEY'RE STILL
OUT THERE SOMEWHERE?
YOU THINK THEY GOT
PULLED THROUGH
THOSE PORTALS?

IT IS
CERTAINLY
POSSIBLE.

YEAH,
THEN I GUESS
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT
I'LL BE COMING
WITH YOU.

YOU AND
SIMON TAKE
CARE OF THINGS
HERE, BEN.

IT IS
REBUILDING
TIME.

IT SURE IS,
PAL. AND I GUESS
WE'LL JUST HAVE
TO TAKE IT...



"...ONE EARTH
AT A TIME."



**MEANWHILE.
AT THE CENTER OF INFINITY.**

A MOON KNIGHT
AND A VISION. GOOD.
WE CAN ALWAYS USE
MORE OF THOSE.

AVENGER
PRIME WILL
BE HAPPY.

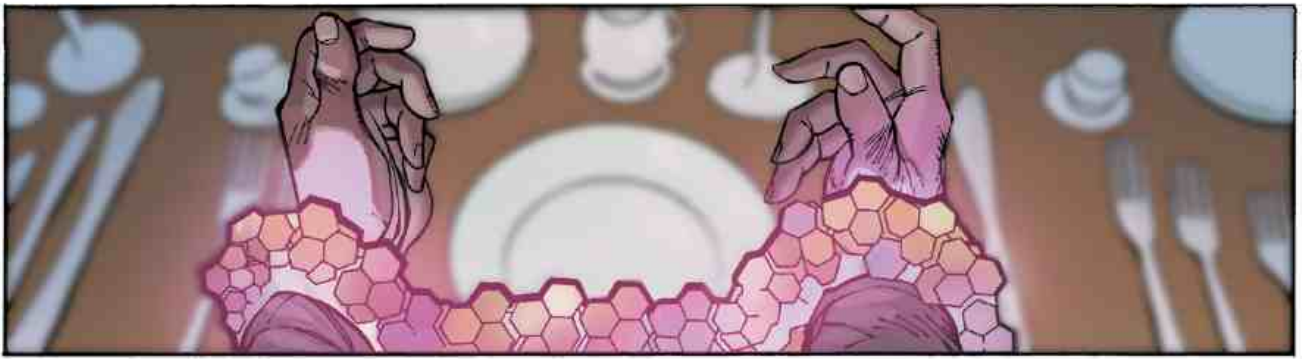
WHAT IN
THE NAME OF
KHONSHU? WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHERE ARE
WE?



THERE WERE
PORTALS AND BLACK
SKULLS AND...AND
THIS ISN'T OUR HOME.
WE'VE GOT TO GO
BACK.

BELIEVE ME,
THAT'S ALL ANY
OF US WANT. BUT
NO ONE'S GOING
HOME.





W-WHERE ARE WE?

IT'S AVENGERS MANSION...



SOME KIND OF REPLICA OF IT.



SERIOUSLY-- WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

THIS? OH, IT'S NOTHING--



--JUST A LITTLE SOMETHING I WHIPPED UP IN THE KITCHEN.

HONESTLY, JARVIS HERE DID MOST OF THE WORK.

NOT UNTIL
THIS WAR IS
WON.

EVEN
IF IT TAKES
FOREVER.



OKAY, THIS IS OFFICIALLY THE CREEPIEST THING I HAVE EVER BEEN A PART OF.

AGREED. ULTRON--YOU WILL RELEASE US. NOW--

ULTRON?

THOR--DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME? CAN'T YOU SEE MY FACE?

IT'S YOUR OLD PAL-- HANK PYM!

THEN AGAIN--I LOOK AROUND THIS TABLE, AND I DON'T REALLY RECOGNIZE MOST OF *YOU* THESE DAYS EITHER...

WELL, I CAN HELP WITH THAT--HE'S HAD HIS REALITY REWRITTEN BY A COSMIC CUBE, SHE'S POSSESSED BY A DEMON, HE'S INFECTED BY SOME A.I. VIRUS--



--I WAS REFERRING TO *YOUR* SIDE OF THE TABLE. OR MORE SPECIFICALLY-- YOU, IN FACT.

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT CHARMING, CHARISMATIC FIGURE WE WERE ALL SO IN AWE OF BACK THEN? WHO IS THIS MANIC, NERVOUS, OVERREACHING MESS OF A MAN IN HIS PLACE?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. I KNOW IT'S YOU IN THERE--YOU'RE WEARING YOUR OLD ARMOR. WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT? NOSTALGIA?

HH. HARDLY--

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE



Greetings from Avengers Tower! In our epic first issue, we challenged you all to identify the many multiversal Avengers featured on the cover. And Aaron Kuder certainly didn't make it easy! So while many of you answered the call and a noble effort was had by all, no one managed to identify every single Avenger on the cover. But we hope it was a fun endeavor, and we wanted to share a few of the responses we received.

In addition to the below, we also wanted to mention Reede Beebe, Chris Wildrick, and Carson Martin for their submissions. We'll be running a key with all of the character names in our next issue, so it's not too late to email us your guesses!

Hello, guys,

I love an alternate reality story, and the original AVENGERS FOREVER is my all-time favorite comic book series, so I'm in for whatever you have planned. I thought I would have a go at naming all the characters from issue #1's cover as requested. There were a couple I had no idea on and a few that were a best guess.

Really looking forward to seeing what you have planned.

All the best,
Dave Evans
Leeds, UK

Glad you're along for the ride, Dave! You did a great job guessing, though you didn't quite get them all.

I was interested when I heard this series was coming out. I've read the first issue, and so far, you've got me excited to pick up the next issue. This is an interesting way to show the Multiverse, and I'm interested to see where these characters will go in the multiple worlds ruled by the Masters of Evil. I'm taking the challenge to name all the characters on the front cover. I may have to double-check a couple of names, but I think I got it.

The only one I have a hard time figuring out is the character in the top right corner. I can't figure out if it's another Scarlet Witch or a version of Carol Danvers (like the Sentress). That one has me stumped. Let me know if I'm close. I was a big Marvel fan as a kid, but even I don't know every character out there. Here's hoping to see most if not all as the series continues.

Ian Yoxon
Ottawa Ontario, Canada

You came really close to naming them all correctly, Ian! And that indeed is Sentress in the corner.

Here we go. Challenge accepted for the identification of characters from the AVENGERS FOREVER #1 cover. While many are variants or from alternate realities, for the most part, I'm using baseline characters when at all possible. Very, very tricky as some are quite tiny images.

Thanks for the challenge--these are always a blast--my favorites to date have been naming all the woman Tony Stark dated and to identify

everything in Rick Jones' reliquary from FUTURE IMPERFECT.

John Panno
Addison, IL

Glad you enjoyed the challenge! Now we hope you also enjoy reading the series!

Hi!

Just wanted to comment that my favorite inclusion on the cover is Torrent, Storm & Wolverine's daughter from WHAT IF? #114. That was one of my favorite issues as a kid, and I hate that I've never seen those characters brought back. Hope she (or any of those other kids) makes the team!

Thanks,
Hunter

I'm a big fan of that issue of WHAT IF? as well! It took me a couple of comic cons to track it down, but it's now part of my permanent collection. And those characters actually appeared in the final two issues of the original AVENGERS FOREVER series back in the late 1990s!

That's all for now, but if you keep writing in, we'll keep replying and printing your letters from across the Multiverse!

--Martin,
Major Domo of Avengers Tower

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! Email us at MHEROES@MARVEL.COM and mark your messages "okay to print" for a chance to see them answered in future issues!



NEXT

"THE DOOM OF ALL DOOMS"



All we know about the leader of the new **Multiversal Masters of Evil** is that he calls himself **Doom Supreme** and that universe after universe keeps crumbling before him. But in a Multiverse filled with world-conquering versions of **Victor Von Doom**, what makes this one the Doom Above All?

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DO YOU
WANT TO KNOW
WHY ULTRON BUILT
THIS CITY?

WHY HE
DIDN'T COME
AFTER YOU
YET AGAIN?



IT'S BECAUSE
HE DIDN'T *HAVE*
TO. IT'S BECAUSE
HE LOOKED AT YOU
AND YOUR *WAR*,
TONY, AND YOU
AND YOUR
SCHEMING,
STEVE--

--AND HE
REALIZED HE
WOULDN'T HAVE
TO DESTROY
ANYTHING--



--BECAUSE
YOU WERE
ALREADY DOING
IT FOR HIM.



YOU WERE
GOING TO TEAR EACH
OTHER APART, AND BURN
DOWN EVERYTHING YOU
BUILT IN THE PROCESS. HE
DIDN'T NEED TO LIFT
A FINGER--



--HE
JUST NEEDED
TO WAIT.

KISS
THE
OVERLORD





ULTRON--I
HAPPEN TO
AGREE WITH
YOU...

...BUT HYDRA
IS GOING TO
CHANGE ALL OF
THAT--BRING AN
END TO ALL THIS
WEAKNESS AND
CORRUPTION...

OH, OF
COURSE IT
WILL, STEVE--
OF COURSE--



--JUST LIKE TONY'S GRAND
PLANS FOR SUPERHUMAN
REGISTRATION MADE
EVERYTHING **SO** MUCH
BETTER.



OR PERHAPS
YOU MEAN LIKE WHEN
WANDA HERE TRIED
TO FIX EVERYTHING--
THAT GOT A BIT **MESSY**
AS I RECALL...



S'TRUE. I
GOT BLOWN
UP.



YOU ALWAYS
HAVE SUCH BIG IDEAS
FOR SOLVING ALL THE
WORLD'S PROBLEMS.
FUNNY, THEN, HOW YOU
JUST KEEP MAKING
EVERYTHING
WORSE.

BUT THAT'S WHY
I BROUGHT YOU HERE--
SO THAT WE COULD SIT
AND HAVE A NICE DINNER
TOGETHER, BREAK BREAD
AND LAUGH, LIKE IN THE
OLD DAYS--RECONNECT
WITH WHAT WE'VE
LOST--

I'M NOT INTERESTED
IN NOSTALGIA. YOU HAVE
SOMETHING THAT
BELONGS TO HYDRA--



AND WE HAVE A
SLIGHTLY **DIFFERENT**
INTERPRETATION OF
WHO IT BELONGS
TO.



~~==SIGH==~~ OF COURSE,
THEY ONLY VISIT WHEN
THEY **WANT** THINGS...



SAM, PLEASE--BE REASONABLE
HERE--IF THIS ESCALATES--

DON'T. DON'T
TALK TO ME
LIKE YOU'RE MY
FRIEND--

STOP!
MY GOD,
YOU PEOPLE--
IT **NEVER**
CHANGES!
HAVE YOU
NOT HEARD
A **WORD**
I'VE SAID?!



I'M TRYING TO **HELP** YOU!
I'M **ALWAYS** TRYING TO
HELP YOU--

--BUT YOU
NEVER, EVER
LISTEN TO ME,
DO YOU?!



IF **ROGERS**
SAYS "ASSEMBLE,"
YOU ALL CAN'T RUN
INTO A FIRE FAST
ENOUGH--AND IF **STARK**
SAYS HE HAS SOME BIG
IDEA, HALF OF YOU
WILL HAPPILY LINE UP
BEHIND HIM NO
MATTER **HOW**
TERRIBLE
IT IS!



WHAT
ABOUT **ME?!**
I'M A **FOUNDING**
AVENGER! I DESERVE
SOME **RESPECT!**
I **DESERVE**
TO BE TAKEN
SERIOUSLY!
I--

HA HA
HA HA
HA!



HA HA
HA!

IS
SOMETHING
FUNNY,
TONY?

N-NO,
NO, SORRY,
IT'S JUST--
I DIDN'T
BELIEVE
IT--I
DIDN'T
THINK
IT WAS
ACTUALLY
YOU UNTIL
JUST
NOW...

...BUT
THAT--
THAT IS
THE **MOST**
HANK PYM
THING I
HAVE EVER
HEARD
ANYONE
SAY.





IS THAT WHAT YOU'VE BEEN DOING UP HERE THIS WHOLE TIME? SITTING IN THIS DOLLHOUSE, FEELING SORRY FOR YOURSELF?

TONY... DON'T--

I'M JUST SAYING--IT'S KIND OF AMAZING, RIGHT? THE ONE THING THAT FINALLY STOPPED ULTRON FOR GOOD WAS HANK PYM'S ALL-DEVOURING, ALL-CONSUMING INFERIORITY COMPLEX.

UH, TONY, HATE TO SAY IT, BUT MAYBE STEVE IS RIGHT. BRING IT DOWN A NOTCH--

NO, I DON'T THINK SO, SAM--



--I NEED TO GET THIS OFF MY CHEST. OF ALL THE PEOPLE TO LECTURE--YOU WANT TO KNOW WHEN IT ALL WENT WRONG, "HANK"? BECAUSE I HAVE A THEORY--

WILL SOMEONE PLEASE SOBER UP HIS SETTINGS?

TO BE FAIR, THIS IS PRETTY IN LINE WITH THE WHOLE FAMILY DINNER MOTIF, AT LEAST IN MY EXPERIENCE.



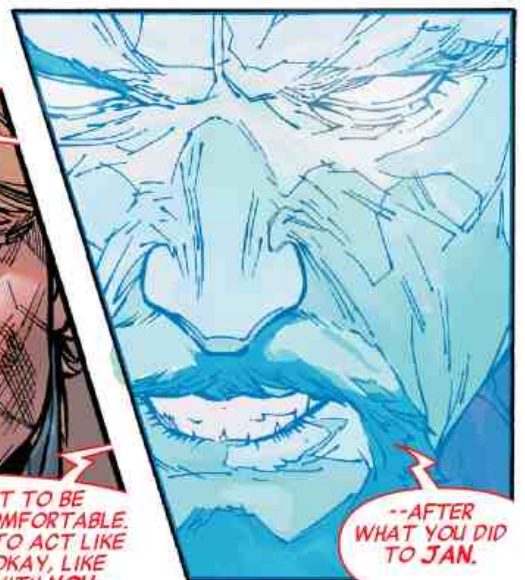
IT WAS YOU.

I DON'T MEAN YOU CREATING ULTRON, HAVING YOUR LITTLE BREAKDOWN AFTERWARD, BETRAYING ALL OF US-- THAT DID A LOT OF DAMAGE TO US, AS A TEAM, SURE. BUT AS A FAMILY?

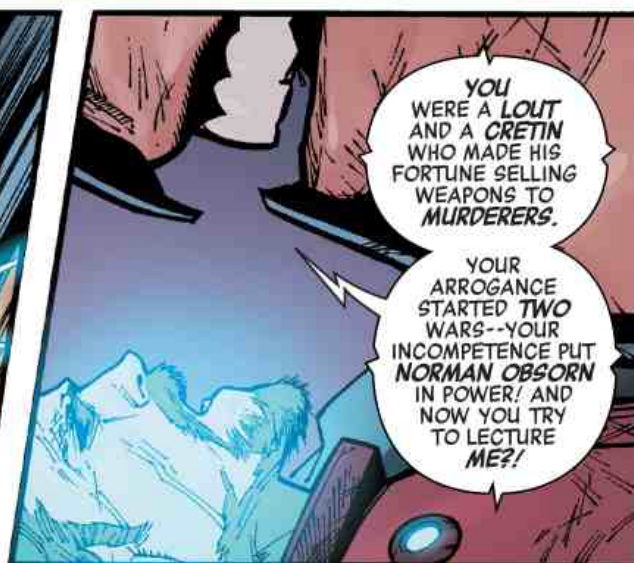
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHY WE STOPPED HAVING THESE DINNERS? PARTIES OUT BY THE POOL? WHY ALL THAT ENDED?



IT'S BECAUSE THEY GOT TO BE TOO AWKWARD. TOO UNCOMFORTABLE. IT WAS HARD FOR PEOPLE TO ACT LIKE EVERYTHING WAS STILL OKAY, LIKE THEY WERE STILL OKAY WITH YOU--



--AFTER WHAT YOU DID TO JAN.





LISTEN, I KNOW THERE'S A LOT OF... **DRAMA** HERE, BUT--

--YOU AND ME, WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN COOL RIGHT? NOT TO BE ALL CHEESY OR WHATEVER, BUT... YOU'RE KINDA MY ROLE MODEL AND ALL THAT. YOU KNOW WHY THAT IS?

IT'S NOT JUST THE WHOLE "LET ME KEEP ONE OF HIS COSTUMES AND BECOME A SUPER HERO" THING--

--IT'S BECAUSE YOU SCREWED UP BIG TIME.

NOW, HOLD ON-- I DON'T MEAN THAT IN A **BAD** WAY! KINDA. SEE--

--I SCREWED UP BIG TIME, TOO. I MADE ONE MISTAKE AND IT PUT ME IN PRISON. COST ME MY FAMILY.

SO WHEN I MET YOU, I SAID TO MYSELF, HEY, THERE'S A GUY WHO DIDN'T LET THAT STUFF STOP HIM.

THERE'S A GUY WHO DID SOME STUFF HE REGRETS, BUT HE GOT RIGHT BACK UP AND KEPT TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT--

THAT HELPED ME. A LOT. IT DIDN'T GET ME ALL THE WAY TO WHERE I NEEDED TO BE, THOUGH. FOR THAT, I NEEDED **ANOTHER** PERSON TO LOOK UP TO.

SEE, GUYS LIKE US, WE DON'T MAKE THE BEST DECISIONS ALL THE TIME. BUT WE HAVE PEOPLE IN OUR LIVES WHO ARE--WELL, A LOT BETTER THAN US.

FOR ME, THAT'S MY DAUGHTER, CASSIE.

SO WHENEVER I GET STUCK IN A BAD PLACE, AND I HAVE A **CHOICE** TO MAKE--I TRY TO ASK MYSELF WHAT **SHE** WOULD DO.

AND I FIGURE, MAYBE A TRICK LIKE THAT COULD WORK FOR YOU, TOO. NOT WITH CASSIE, I GUESS-- THAT'D BE **WEIRD**, YOU DON'T REALLY **KNOW** HER THAT WELL. BUT IF YOU REALLY **ARE** HANK, MAYBE YOU COULD ASK YOURSELF--

--WHAT WOULD **JANET** WANT YOU TO DO RIGHT NOW?



**FAREWELL!
SAFE
TRAVELS!**

ENJOY
THE CUBE
FRAGMENT,
SCOTT!

I'LL MAKE SURE
YOU'RE HEADING
IN THE OPPOSITE
DIRECTION FROM
YOU-KNOW-
WHO...

LET'S GET
OUT OF HERE.
NOW.

WAY
AHEAD OF
YOU.

OH,
BUT--TONY?
TONY?

I JUST WANTED TO SAY,
I'M SORRY IF THINGS GOT A
LITTLE...TESTY BACK AT DINNER.
TRUTH BE TOLD, I THINK THIS
LITTLE ADVENTURE WILL
BE GOOD FOR YOU.

IS THAT
RIGHT?

MM. YOU DIDN'T
GET HERE BY ACCIDENT,
YOU KNOW.

YOU'VE ALL BEEN
CARRYING AROUND THIS
BAGGAGE. THESE
REGRETS.

WE ARE THE
SUM OF OUR CHOICES,
I SUPPOSE. BUT A
CONFLICT LIKE
THIS, ONE SO
COMPREHENSIVE--
IT CAN HAVE A
CLEANSING EFFECT...

...HELP
YOU FACE
YOUR
DEMONS.

SAY HELLO
TO ALL YOUR
GHOSTS FOR
ME, TONY!

WE HAD
A DEAL,
ULTRON--

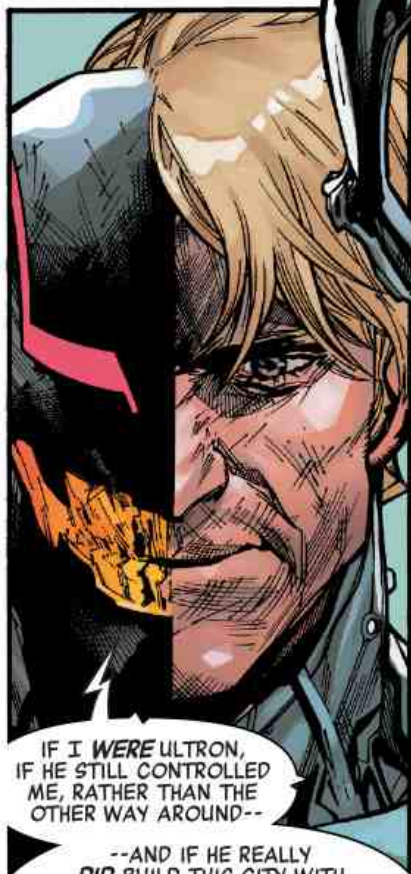
MM. AND WE STILL DO, STEVE. I WON'T BE INVADING YOUR LITTLE COUNTRY. BUT THE CUBE FRAGMENT IS ITS OWN ISSUE.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND--WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ALL THIS? THAT CHARADE BACK THERE? FOR YOU TO GIVE IN ON ACCOUNT OF SOME SENTIMENTALIST NONSENSE?

YOU KEEP CALLING ME ULTRON.

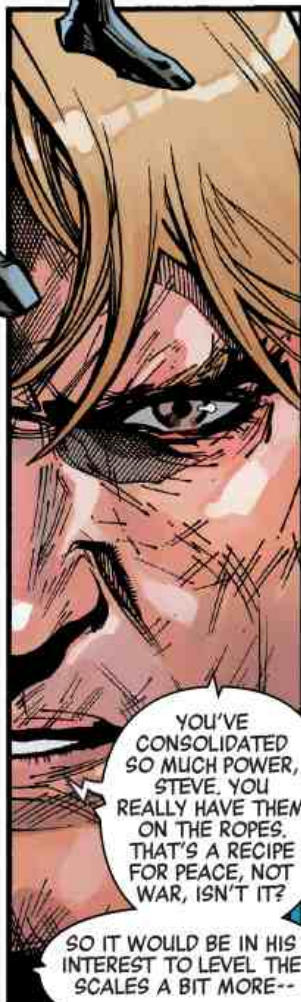
WAIT, IS THAT WHY YOU--?

NO, OF COURSE NOT. I WOULD NEVER BE SO PETTY. BUT IT'S SOMETHING TO CONSIDER, ISN'T IT?



IF I *WERE* ULTRON, IF HE STILL CONTROLLED ME, RATHER THAN THE OTHER WAY AROUND--

--AND IF HE REALLY *DID* BUILD THIS CITY WITH THE INTENTION OF WAITING FOR THAT APPROACHING MOMENT WHEN HUMANITY DESTROYS ITSELF-- WELL, THEN IT WOULD BE EASY TO SEE WHY HE'D DO THIS, YES?



YOU'VE CONSOLIDATED SO MUCH POWER, STEVE. YOU REALLY HAVE THEM ON THE ROPES. THAT'S A RECIPE FOR PEACE, NOT WAR, ISN'T IT?

SO IT WOULD BE IN HIS INTEREST TO LEVEL THE SCALES A BIT MORE--



--KEEP THINGS INTERESTING.



ULTRON SAID HE DIDN'T NEED US, MADE US WAIT ON THE JET.

HOW WAS DINNER? SMELLED GREAT.

SHUT UP.

NO LEFTOVERS, THEN.

SIX HOURS LATER.



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WORKED.

HEY, HANK'S AN OKAY GUY, HE'S JUST...GOING THROUGH KIND OF A ROUGH PATCH RIGHT NOW.



HE BASICALLY SAID HE WAS HOPING HUMANITY ERADICATES ITSELF.

I THINK HE WAS BEING DRAMATIC.



NO MATTER PYM'S STRUGGLES, WE HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF, MY FRIENDS--

--IN THIS CONTEST, OUR SIDE WAS VICTORIOUS! THIS CALLS FOR HEARTY CELEBRATION!

OR BINGE WATCHING MASTER OF NONE.

BREAKING NEWS FROM WASHINGTON, D.C., JUST NOW--WHERE NAMOR OF ATLANTIS HAS ARRIVED ABRUPTLY, PROMISING A MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT.



WAIT--TURN THAT UP--

CAPTAIN AMERICA, HIMSELF JUST BACK FROM A DIPLOMATIC MISSION MOMENTS AGO, HAS AGREED TO MEET WITH NAMOR AND HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY--



--AS BOTH SIDES ATTEMPT TO AVERT WHAT MANY BELIEVE IS AN INEVITABLE CONFLICT.

YOU SHOULDN'T DO THIS.

QUIET. TO PROTECT MY KINGDOM, TO PROTECT MY PEOPLE--I WILL DO WHAT I MUST.



BUT THIS--THIS ISN'T THE WAY--

WHO ARE YOU TO TELL ME WHAT IS OUR WAY? I AM ATLANTIS' RULER--I AND I ALONE DECIDE HER DESTINY.

OR WOULD YOU HAVE ME START A WAR WE CANNOT POSSIBLY WIN? SO WE CAN WATCH FAR MORE THAN ONE TEMPLE BURN--

HE'S RIGHT--

--THERE'S
NO NEED
FOR ANY MORE
BLOODSHED.

NAMOR.
I'M GLAD
YOU CAME
AROUND--

YES, WELL,
YOU'LL EXCUSE
MY DELAY, ROGERS--
MY PEOPLE ARE
MOURNING THEIR
PRIESTS.

NO ONE
REGRETS THAT
MORE THAN
ME.

IS
THAT
SO?

THEN
WHY AM I THE
ONE WHO COMES
BEARING
GIFTS?

--AND SO
I'M CONFIDENT
THAT THIS AGREEMENT
SIGNALS A NEW AGE OF
COOPERATION BETWEEN
OUR TWO PEOPLE. HYDRA'S
PROMISE OF PEACE
THROUGH STRENGTH IS
BEING FULFILLED
HERE TODAY--

WAIT--IS
HE HOLDING A--
WHAT JUST
HAPPENED?

HE JUST
GOT THE BETTER
OF US IS WHAT
HAPPENED.

UNBELIEVABLE.
YOU MEAN TO TELL ME,
AFTER ALL THAT--IT
WAS A DRAW?

ALL THAT,
AND HE EVENS
THINGS UP WITHOUT
EVEN LIFTING A
DAMN FINGER.

I'LL PUT
BACK THE
CELEBRATORY
SNACKS...

UH, TONY, IF HE KEEPS GETTING
MORE FRAGMENTS ON HIS OWN--
AT WHAT POINT DO YOU NOT HAVE
ENOUGH TO DO...WHATEVER IT
IS YOU NEED TO DO?

I--I
DON'T
KNOW...

I KNEW IT.
THIS IS A FOOL'S
ERRAND. WE SHOULD
GIVE THIS UP
BEFORE--

NO!

WE'RE
NOT GIVING
UP, AND WE'RE
NOT TURNING
BACK.

THIS IS
THE MISSION.
WE'RE GOING TO
USE TONY'S DEVICE
TO FIND AS MANY OF
THOSE FRAGMENTS
AS WE CAN.

"ALL THIS MEANS
IS WE HAVE TO
WORK FASTER."

WELL, THAT
WAS AN UNEXPECTED
SURPRISE. NICE TO SEE
THAT ARROGANT
FOOL KNEEL.

NAMOR'S DOING
THE SMART THING FOR
HIS PEOPLE, HELMUT. IF I
WERE IN HIS POSITION, I'D
DO THE SAME. I'M SURE
IT WASN'T EASY.

AT ANY
RATE, IT'S
GOOD TO SEE
YOU RIGHTFULLY
VICTORIOUS--
ESPECIALLY
AFTER ULTRON'S
INEXCUSABLE
DEFIANCE. AND
TRUST
ME--

--WE WILL AVENGE THAT
INDIGNITY, MY FRIEND. AND
WE WON'T ALLOW THESE
CRIMINALS TO ABSCOND
WITH WHAT IS RIGHTFULLY
YOURS.

IT DOESN'T
MATTER. LET
TONY'S GROUP
GATHER UP AS MANY
FRAGMENTS AS THEY
CAN MANAGE. IT
WON'T CHANGE THE
OUTCOME. AFTER
ALL--

"--WE HAVE
SOMEONE ON
THE INSIDE."



TO BE CONTINUED!

SECRET EMPIRE

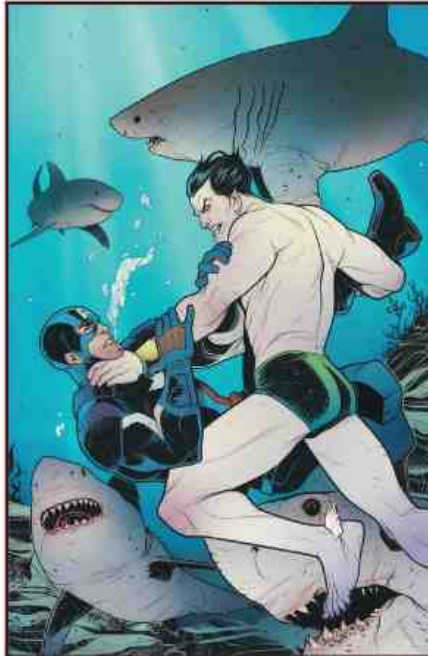
JUNE

SECRET EMPIRE: BRAVE NEW WORLD #1 & #2



THE INVADERS RETURN...AND
A NEW PATRIOT IS BORN!

CAPTAIN AMERICA: STEVE ROGERS #18



WILL NAMOR AND BLACK
PANTHER KNEEL BEFORE HYDRA?

CAPTAIN AMERICA: SAM WILSON #23



SAM LEADS TONY STARK'S TEAM ON
A DARING ESCAPE FROM THE U.S.!

BEYOND THE SHIELD

GUARDIANS ANNUAL #1



THE GUARDIANS SEARCH FOR A
WEAPON THAT CAN TURN THE
TIDE AGAINST THE CHITAUURI!

THE MIGHTY CAPTAIN MARVEL #6



THE BATTLE AGAINST THE CHITAUURI
RAGES ON, BUT CAPTAIN MARVEL'S
FORCES ARE RUNNING OUT OF HOPE.

DEADPOOL #32



CAPTAIN AMERICA WOULDN'T
STEER DEADPOOL WRONG...
RIGHT?

SECRET EMPIRE

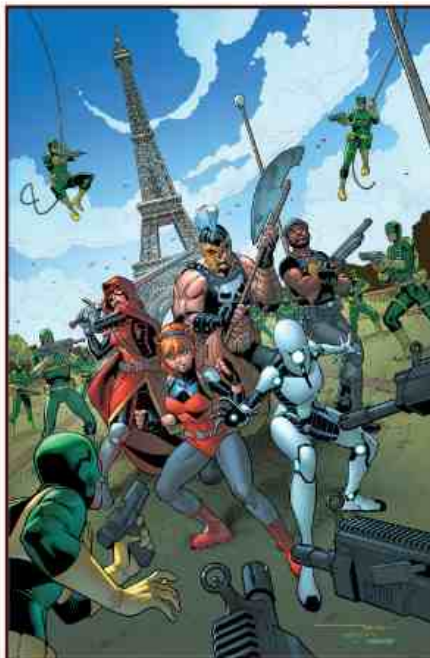
JUNE

SECRET WARRIORS #3



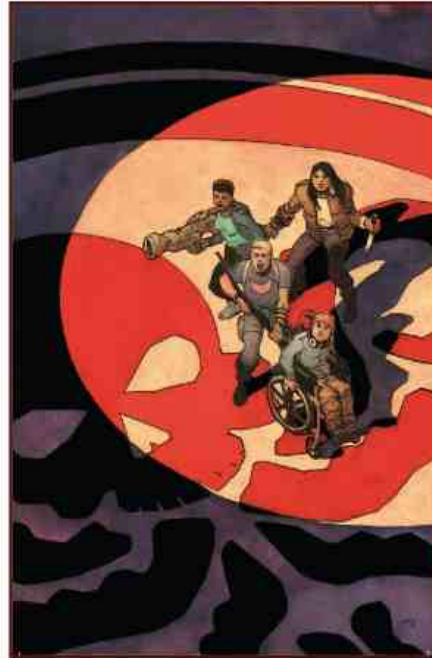
HOW FAR WILL MS. MARVEL GO TO PROTECT INHUMANS FROM HYDRA?

U.S. AVENGERS #7



AVENGERS OF EUROPE, ASSEMBLE!

OCCUPY AVENGERS #8



HAWKEYE'S CHAMPIONS OF THE PEOPLE MAKE ONE LAST STAND AGAINST HYDRA.

DARKFORCE NEW YORK

DOCTOR STRANGE #22



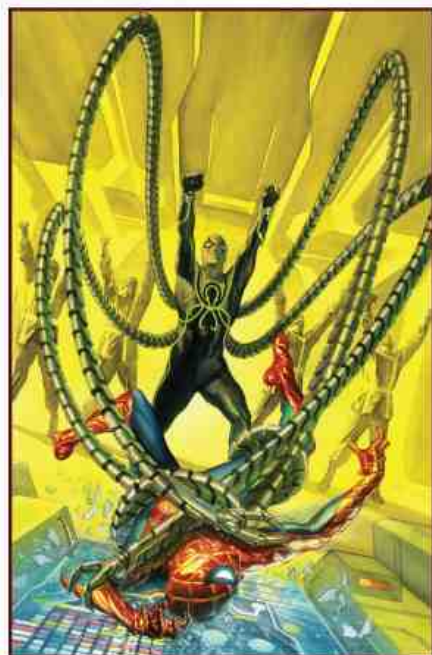
DOCTOR STRANGE FINDS AN UNLIKELY ALLY IN THE FIGHT AGAINST THE DARKFORCE: WILSON FISK

UNCANNY AVENGERS #24



TRICKED BY THEIR FORMER LEADER AND ISOLATED IN THE DARKFORCE, THE UNITY SQUAD FIGHTS TO SURVIVE.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #29



SUPERIOR OCTOPUS IS BACK-- AND HE'S AFTER PARKER INDUSTRIES!

SECRET EMPIRE

NEXT



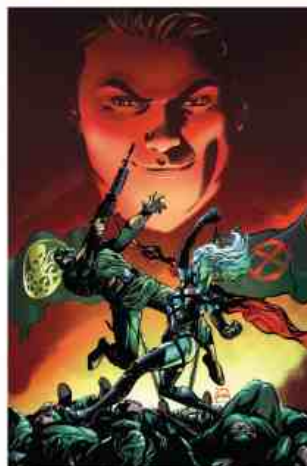
TONY STARK'S MISSION TO SAVE CAPTAIN AMERICA FALTERS, AND THE UNDERGROUND'S TIME IS RUNNING OUT.

SECRET EMPIRE: UNDERGROUND #1



THE HEROES OF THE UNDERGROUND RACE CAPTAIN AMERICA TO A COSMIC CUBE FRAGMENT IN THE SAVAGE LAND!

SECRET EMPIRE: UNITED #1



TENSIONS ARE RISING IN THE MUTANT HOMELAND OF NEW TIAN, AND STEVE ROGERS ISN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT.